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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 19 March 1952

SUBJECT Installation of a Radio Station at Timisoara by the Russians.

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1. The preliminary work on a radio station in Timisoara was begun in the fall of 1950. By January 1951, the walls were built and now the work is nearly finished. This installation is on the former civilian airfield east of Aradului Street (center of town). The central building of the station with a basement and two floors is about 25 meters east of Lipovei Street and 150 meters northeast of the Aradului Street crossroads. Although nearly completed, the building has no number yet. At the extreme north of the building is a tower-like structure which is about one floor higher than the building and has glass walls and a flat roof. The cellar is twelve meters deep; it is divided lengthwise by a corridor, with three rooms on each side of the corridor. The doors of these six rooms are made of iron, and at each end of the corridor there is a flight of stairs leading to the first floor. Each flight of stairs has an iron door. The vault of the cellar is made of concrete three meters thick. Each room is equipped with an electric fan. One room is used to house a generator, another for a bathroom. The rest are now empty. On the first floor there are 20 small rooms which are to be used as living quarters for the station personnel. On the second floor 22 rooms will be used as offices. On the third floor there is a room 18 meters long and 8 meters wide and five rooms in which technical installations have been set up by 21 Hungarian engineers.
2. Behind the main building, six foundations in semicircles joining Lipovei Street are being built for the antenna of the station. A hexagonal-shaped, 195 meter high metal antenna (sic) is now mounted on a concrete foundation ten meters in diameter, to the north of the main building and about 30 meters east of Lipovei street. About three-fourths of the way up there is an interior platform with a railing and a spiral metal stairway. This antenna is anchored to the ground by 12 cables attached to hooks which are in a circle around the antenna; two hooks are beyond Lipovei Street. The antenna was mounted by a crew of five Russians aided by ten workmen. Its concrete

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foundation is ten meters deep, ten meters in diameter and extends one meter above the ground. Work is done by two crews on day and night shifts. South of the main building a one-story building with a mezzanine is still under construction. The work is under the direction of a Soviet architect named Vladimir Ktenko. Under him are six Russian and two Rumanian (from Bucharest) engineers. The electric installations were made by 21 Hungarian engineers who arrived 1 February 1951. They finished on 18 May 1951. The Bucharest engineers arrived in the town later. Eighty-five masons, carpenters and unskilled laborers, formerly peasants (mostly belonging to Hungarian and Swabian minorities) were hired for work on the foundations, masonry and various types of assembling.

3. The site is surrounded by a barbed wire fence and is guarded by four Russian sentinels during the day. Guard service is done by 24 Russian soldiers with a lieutenant in charge. In addition, two Russians in civilian clothes inspect workers every day as they arrive. All these people are living in barracks behind the main building. Each worker has a work-card ten cm by eight cm, with his picture, a red seal with a Russian emblem, the number 44-49, an illegible signature on the left and his complete identification at the right. A sentinel keeps pedestrians away. The guard is doubled at night. All the military personnel have black-bordered red shoulder boards.

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In addition, four trucks of the municipal administration are used for the project.

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